

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application based on the following remarks. Claims 1-60 were pending in the present application. Applicant cancels Claims 2-7, 9-12, 14-26, 28-36, 38-51, and 53-60 without prejudice and amends Claims 1, 8, 13, 27, 37, and 52. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

Claims 1, 8, 13, 27, 37, and 52 are for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment. Applicant requests favorable consideration of this response and allowance of the subject application based on the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 8, 13, 28, 38, and 58 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form (Office Action, page 9). Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that these claims are allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's assistance in advancing prosecution of the application.

Applicant amends independent **Claims 1, 27, 37, and 52** to recite features formerly recited in allowable dependent Claims 2, 28, 38, and 58, respectively. The amendments to independent Claims 1, 27, 37, and 52 are purely of form (i.e., dependent format to independent format), and are not to overcome prior art or any other objections. Accordingly, dependent Claims 2, 28, 38, and 58 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Applicant amends allowable dependent **Claims 8 and 13** to include the limitations of the base claim, Claim 1. The amendments to dependent Claims 8 and 13 are purely of form and are not to overcome any prior art or any other objections.

Applicant respectively submits that **Claims 1, 8, 13, 27, 37, and 52** are in allowable form and are in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

A. Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 10, 15-17, 19-21, 23, 26, 29, 32, 36, 41, 42, 45-50, 52, 55, 56, 59, and 60 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,674,372 to Ouyang (hereinafter, “Ouyang”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,009,444 to Chen (hereinafter, “Chen1”) further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,005,495 to Connolly et al (hereinafter “Connolly”).

B. Claims 2, 7, 18, 22, 24, 30, and 57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,674,372 to Ouyang in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,009,444 to Chen (hereinafter, “Chen1”), U.S. Patent No. 6,005,495 to Connolly et al (hereinafter “Connolly”), further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,073,146 to Chen (hereinafter, “Chen2”);

C. Claims 3, 4, 31, 32, 37, 39, 40, 53, and 54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,674,372 to Ouyang in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,009,444 to Chen1, U.S. Patent No. 6,005,495 to Connolly, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,489,950 Griffin et al. (hereinafter “Griffin”);

D. Claims 8, 28, and 58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,674,372 to Ouyang in view of U.S. Patent No.

6,009,444 to Chen1, U.S. Patent No. 6,005,495 to Connolly, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,292,772 Kantrowitz et al. (hereinafter "Kantrowitz");

E. Claims 11-13, 34, 35, 43, and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,674,372 to Ouyang in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,009,444 to Chen1, U.S. Patent No. 6,005,495 to Connolly, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,272,464 to Kiarz et al. (hereinafter "Kiarz"); and

F. Claims 14, 27, and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,674,372 to Ouyang in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,009,444 to Chen1, U.S. Patent No. 6,005,495 to Connolly, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,838,972 to Matsuzuka et al. (hereinafter "Matsuzuka"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Applicant amends independent **Claims 1, 27, 37, and 52** to recite features formerly recited in allowable dependent Claims 2, 28, 38, and 58, respectively. Applicant cancels Claims 2, 28, 38, and 58. Thus, Claims 1, 27, 37, and 52 are in allowable form and in condition for allowance.

Applicant amends allowable dependent **Claims 8 and 13** to include the limitations of the base claim, Claim 1. Claims 8 and 13 are in allowable form and in condition for allowance.

Applicant cancels Claims 2-7, 9-12, 14-26, 28-36, 38-51, and 53-60 without prejudice.

Claims 1, 8, 13, 27, 37, and 52 are in allowable form and in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §103 rejections.

Conclusion

Claims 1, 8, 13, 27, 37, and 52 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of the subject application. If any issue remains unresolved that would prevent allowance of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney to resolve the issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee & Hayes, PLLC
421 W. Riverside Avenue, Suite 500
Spokane, WA 99201

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By: 

Shirley Lee Anderson
Reg. No. 57,763
(509) 324-9256 ext. 258